

## **Attachment 5**

### **Lake Pontchartrain Water Quality Summary September 28, 2005**

- Louisiana DEQ has established a Lake Pontchartrain water quality monitoring study to determine impacts of hurricane Katrina on the lake and surrounding water bodies.
- Twenty-four monitoring sites were established. These are being sampled twice per week.
- USGS is providing support for bacterial sampling.
- Early testing indicate common results caused by vegetation debris thrown into the water by hurricane winds and storm surge.
- This has caused low dissolved oxygen and fish kills in Northshore streams feeding into Lake Pontchartrain.
- Fecal coliform bacteria counts are slightly elevated in some areas as a result of flooded sewage treatment facilities, flooding of urban sewage lines, and flooding of pastures.
- Organic compound sampling and analysis has shown mostly non-detect results. Where detected, concentrations have not exceeded water quality standards.
- Metals have been below water quality standards with the exception of one sample taken from a New Orleans drainage canal.
- In general Lake Pontchartrain is maintaining excellent water quality, with numerous reports of healthy fish populations.
- Water being pumped from New Orleans has been tested for toxicity on mysid shrimp and minnows that are characteristic of fresh and saltwater environments. Of the 24 tests run only one resulted in some toxicity to mysid shrimp at 100% pump water. This was determined to be caused by low concentrations of a pesticide.
- Canal water samples showed better than normal bacteria counts and was generally unremarkable for pollutants such as metals and organic compounds.
- Impacts to Lake Pontchartrain have been minimal. As a result, the lake should be back to normal within months, not years.